

ORGANOPHOTORECEPTOR WITH CHARGE TRANSPORT MATERIAL WITH FLUORENONE AZINE GROUPS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to organophotoreceptors suitable for use in electrophotography and, more specifically, to organophotoreceptors having a novel charge transport material with at least two fluorenone azine groups.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 In electrophotography, an organophotoreceptor in the form of a plate, disk, sheet, belt, drum or the like having an electrically insulating photoconductive element on an electrically conductive substrate is imaged by first uniformly electrostatically charging the surface of the photoconductive layer, and then exposing the charged surface to a pattern of light. The light exposure selectively dissipates the charge in the illuminated
15 areas where light strikes the surface, thereby forming a pattern of charged and uncharged areas, referred to as a latent image. A liquid or solid toner is then provided in the vicinity of the latent image, and toner droplets or particles deposit in the vicinity of either the charged or uncharged areas to create a toned image on the surface of the photoconductive layer. The resulting toned image can be transferred to a suitable ultimate or intermediate
20 receiving surface, such as paper, or the photoconductive layer can operate as an ultimate receptor for the image. The imaging process can be repeated many times to complete a single image, for example, by overlaying images of distinct color components or effect shadow images, such as overlaying images of distinct colors to form a full color final image, and/or to reproduce additional images.

25 Both single layer and multilayer photoconductive elements have been used. In single layer embodiments, a charge transport material and charge generating material are combined with a polymeric binder and then deposited on the electrically conductive substrate. In multilayer embodiments, the charge transport material and charge
30 generating material are present in the element in separate layers, each of which can optionally be combined with a polymeric binder, deposited on the electrically conductive substrate. Two arrangements are possible for a two-layer photoconductive element. In

one two-layer arrangement (the "dual layer" arrangement), the charge-generating layer is deposited on the electrically conductive substrate and the charge transport layer is deposited on top of the charge generating layer. In an alternate two-layer arrangement (the "inverted dual layer" arrangement), the order of the charge transport layer and charge
 5 generating layer is reversed.

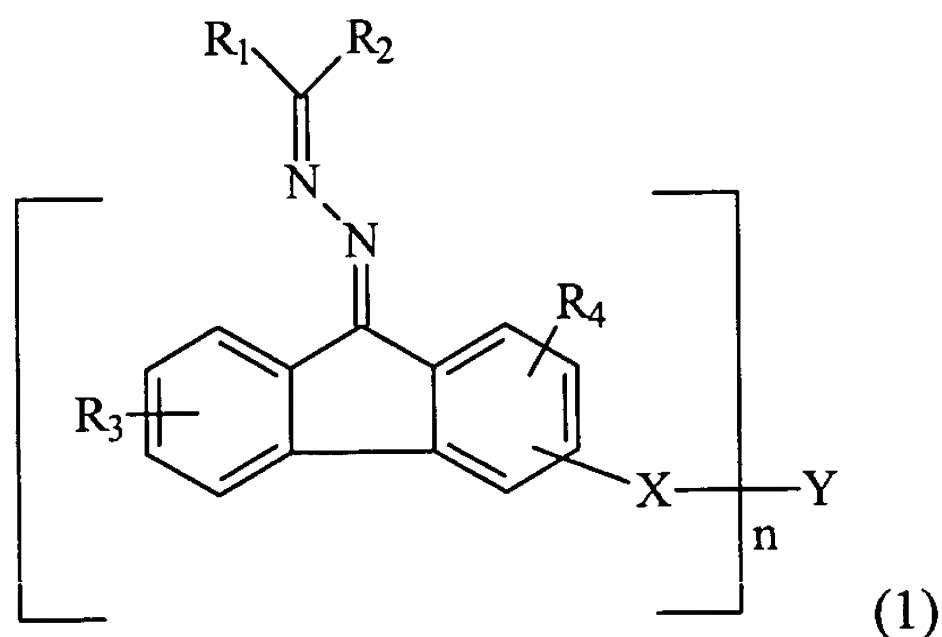
In both the single and multilayer photoconductive elements, the purpose of the charge generating material is to generate charge carriers (i.e., holes and/or electrons) upon exposure to light. The purpose of the charge transport material is to accept at least one type of these charge carriers and transport them through the charge transport layer in
 10 order to facilitate discharge of a surface charge on the photoconductive element. The charge transport material can be a charge transport compound, an electron transport compound, or a combination of both. When a charge transport compound is used, the charge transport compound accepts the hole carriers and transports them through the layer with the charge transport compound. When an electron transport compound is used,
 15 the electron transport compound accepts the electron carriers and transports them through the layer with the electron transport compound.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides organophotoreceptors having good electrostatic
 20 properties such as high V_{acc} and low V_{dis} .

In a first aspect, an organophotoreceptor comprises an electrically conductive substrate and a photoconductive element on the electrically conductive substrate, the photoconductive element comprising:

(a) a charge transport material having the formula



where n is an integer between 2 and 6, inclusive;

R₁ and R₂ are, independently, H, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, a heterocyclic group, or an aryl group;

R₃ and R₄ are, independently, H, halogen, carboxyl, hydroxyl, thiol, cyano, nitro, aldehyde group, ketone group, an ether group, an ester group, a carbonyl group, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, or an aryl group;

X is a linking group having the formula -(CH₂)_m-, branched or linear, where m is an integer between 0 and 20, inclusive, and one or more of the methylene groups can be optionally replaced by O, S, C=O, O=S=O, a heterocyclic group, an aromatic group, urethane, urea, an ester group, a NR₅ group, a CHR₆ group, or a CR₇R₈ group where R₅, R₆, R₇, and R₈ are, independently, H, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, a heterocyclic group, or an aryl group; and

Y comprises a bond, C, N, O, S, a branched or linear -(CH₂)_p- group where p is an integer between 0 and 10, an aromatic group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a NR₉ group where R₉ is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or aryl group, wherein Y has a structure selected to form n bonds with the corresponding X groups; and

(b) a charge generating compound.

The organophotoreceptor may be provided, for example, in the form of a plate, a flexible belt, a flexible disk, a sheet, a rigid drum, or a sheet around a rigid or compliant drum. In one embodiment, the organophotoreceptor includes: (a) a photoconductive element comprising the charge transport material, the charge generating compound, a second charge transport material, and a polymeric binder; and (b) the electrically conductive substrate.

In a second aspect, the invention features an electrophotographic imaging apparatus that comprises (a) a light imaging component; and (b) the above-described organophotoreceptor oriented to receive light from the light imaging component. The apparatus can further comprise a liquid toner dispenser. The method of electrophotographic imaging with photoreceptors containing the above noted charge transport materials is also described.

In a third aspect, the invention features an electrophotographic imaging process that includes (a) applying an electrical charge to a surface of the above-described

organophotoreceptor; (b) imagewise exposing the surface of the organophotoreceptor to radiation to dissipate charge in selected areas and thereby form a pattern of at least relatively charged and uncharged areas on the surface; (c) contacting the surface with a toner, such as a liquid toner that includes a dispersion of colorant particles in an organic liquid, to create a toned image; and (d) transferring the toned image to a substrate.

In a fourth aspect, the invention features a charge transport material having the general Formula (1) above.

The invention provides suitable charge transport materials for organophotoreceptors featuring a combination of good mechanical and electrostatic properties. These photoreceptors can be used successfully with liquid toners to produce high quality images. The high quality of the imaging system can be maintained after repeated cycling.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of the particular embodiments thereof, and from the claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An organophotoreceptor as described herein has an electrically conductive substrate and a photoconductive element comprising a charge generating compound and a charge transport material having two fluorenone azine groups linked through a linking group. These charge transport materials have desirable properties as evidenced by their performance in organophotoreceptors for electrophotography. In particular, the charge transport materials of this invention have high charge carrier mobilities and good compatibility with various binder materials, and possess excellent electrophotographic properties. The organophotoreceptors according to this invention generally have a high photosensitivity, a low residual potential, and a high stability with respect to cycle testing, crystallization, and organophotoreceptor bending and stretching. The organophotoreceptors are particularly useful in laser printers and the like as well as fax machines, photocopiers, scanners and other electronic devices based on electrophotography. The use of these charge transport materials is described in more detail below in the context of laser printer use, although their application in other devices operating by electrophotography can be generalized from the discussion below.

To produce high quality images, particularly after multiple cycles, it is desirable for the charge transport materials to form a homogeneous solution with the polymeric binder and remain approximately homogeneously distributed through the organophotoreceptor material during the cycling of the material. In addition, it is
5 desirable to increase the amount of charge that the charge transport material can accept (indicated by a parameter known as the acceptance voltage or " V_{acc} "), and to reduce retention of that charge upon discharge (indicated by a parameter known as the discharge voltage or " V_{dis} ").

The charge transport materials can be classified as charge transport compound or
10 electron transport compound. There are many charge transport compounds and electron transport compounds known in the art for electrophotography. Non-limiting examples of charge transport compounds include, for example, pyrazoline derivatives, fluorene derivatives, oxadiazole derivatives, stilbene derivatives, hydrazone derivatives, carbazole
15 hydrazone derivatives, triaryl amines, polyvinyl carbazole, polyvinyl pyrene, polyacenaphthylene, or multi-hydrazone compounds comprising at least two hydrazone groups and at least two groups selected from the group consisting of p-(N,N-disubstituted) arylamine such as triphenylamine and heterocycles such as carbazole, julolidine, phenothiazine, phenazine, phenoxazine, phenoxathiin, thiazole, oxazole, isoxazole, dibenzo(1,4)dioxine, thianthrene, imidazole, benzothiazole, benzotriazole,
20 benzoxazole, benzimidazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, quinoxaline, indole, indazole, pyrrole, purine, pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, triazole, oxadiazole, tetrazole, thiadiazole, benzisoxazole, benzisothiazole, dibenzofuran, dibenzothiophene, thiophene, thianaphthene, quinazoline, or cinnoline.

Non-limiting examples of electron transport compounds include, for example,
25 bromoaniline, tetracyanoethylene, tetracyanoquinodimethane, 2,4,7-trinitro-9-fluorenone, 2,4,5,7-tetranitro-9-fluorenone, 2,4,5,7-tetranitroxanthone, 2,4,8-trinitrothioxanthone, 2,6,8-trinitro-indeno[1,2-b]thiophene-4-one, and 1,3,7-trinitrodibenzo
thiophene-5,5-dioxide, (2,3-diphenyl-1-indenylidene)malononitrile, 4H-thiopyran-1,1-
dioxide and its derivatives such as 4-dicyanomethylene-2,6-diphenyl-4H-thiopyran-1,1-
30 dioxide, 4-dicyanomethylene-2,6-di-m-tolyl-4H-thiopyran-1,1-dioxide, and
unsymmetrically substituted 2,6-diaryl-4H-thiopyran-1,1-dioxide such as 4H-1,1-dioxo-

2-(p-isopropylphenyl)-6-phenyl-4-(dicyanomethylidene)thiopyran and 4H-1,1-dioxo-2-(p-isopropylphenyl)-6-(2-thienyl)-4-(dicyanomethylidene)thiopyran, derivatives of phospho-2,5-cyclohexadiene, alkoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile derivatives such as (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile, (4-phenethoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile, (4-carbitoxy-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile, and diethyl(4-n-butoxycarbonyl-2,7-dinitro-9-fluorenylidene)-malonate, anthraquinodimethane derivatives such as 11,11,12,12-tetracyano-2-alkylanthraquinodimethane and 11,11-dicyano-12,12-bis(ethoxycarbonyl)anthraquinodimethane, anthrone derivatives such as 1-chloro-10-[bis(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene]anthrone, 1,8-dichloro-10-[bis(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene]anthrone, 1,8-dihydroxy-10-[bis(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene]anthrone, and 1-cyano-10-[bis(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene]anthrone, 7-nitro-2-aza-9-fluorenylidene-malononitrile, diphenoquinone derivatives, benzoquinone derivatives, naphthoquinone derivatives, quinine derivatives, tetracyanoethylenecyanoethylene, 2,4,8-trinitro thioxanthone, dinitrobenzene derivatives, dinitroanthracene derivatives, dinitroacridine derivatives, nitroanthraquinone derivatives, dinitroanthraquinone derivatives, succinic anhydride, maleic anhydride, dibromo maleic anhydride, pyrene derivatives, carbazole derivatives, hydrazone derivatives, N,N-dialkylaniline derivatives, diphenylamine derivatives, triphenylamine derivatives, triphenylmethane derivatives, tetracyano quinoedimethane, 2,4,5,7-tetranitro-9-fluorenone, 2,4,7-trinitro-9-dicyanomethylene fluorenone, 2,4,5,7-tetranitroxanthone derivatives, and 2,4,8-trinitrothioxanthone derivatives. In some embodiments of interest, the electron transport compound comprises an (alkoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene) malononitrile derivative, such as (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile.

Although there are many charge transport materials available, there is a need for other charge transport materials to meet the various requirements of particular electrophotography applications.

In electrophotography applications, a charge-generating compound within an organophotoreceptor absorbs light to form electron-hole pairs. These electrons and holes can be transported over an appropriate time frame under a large electric field to discharge locally a surface charge that is generating the field. The discharge of the field at a particular location results in a surface charge pattern that essentially matches the pattern

drawn with the light. This charge pattern then can be used to guide toner deposition. The charge transport materials described herein are especially effective at transporting charge, and in particular electrons from the electron-hole pairs formed by the charge generating compound. In some embodiments, a specific electron transport compound or charge
5 transport compound can also be used along with the charge transport material of this invention.

The layer or layers of materials containing the charge generating compound and the charge transport materials are within an organophotoreceptor. To print a two dimensional image using the organophotoreceptor, the organophotoreceptor has a two
10 dimensional surface for forming at least a portion of the image. The imaging process then continues by cycling the organophotoreceptor to complete the formation of the entire image and/or for the processing of subsequent images.

The organophotoreceptor may be provided in the form of a plate, a flexible belt, a disk, a rigid drum, a sheet around a rigid or compliant drum, or the like. The charge
15 transport material can be in the same layer as the charge generating compound and/or in a different layer from the charge generating compound. Additional layers can be used also, as described further below.

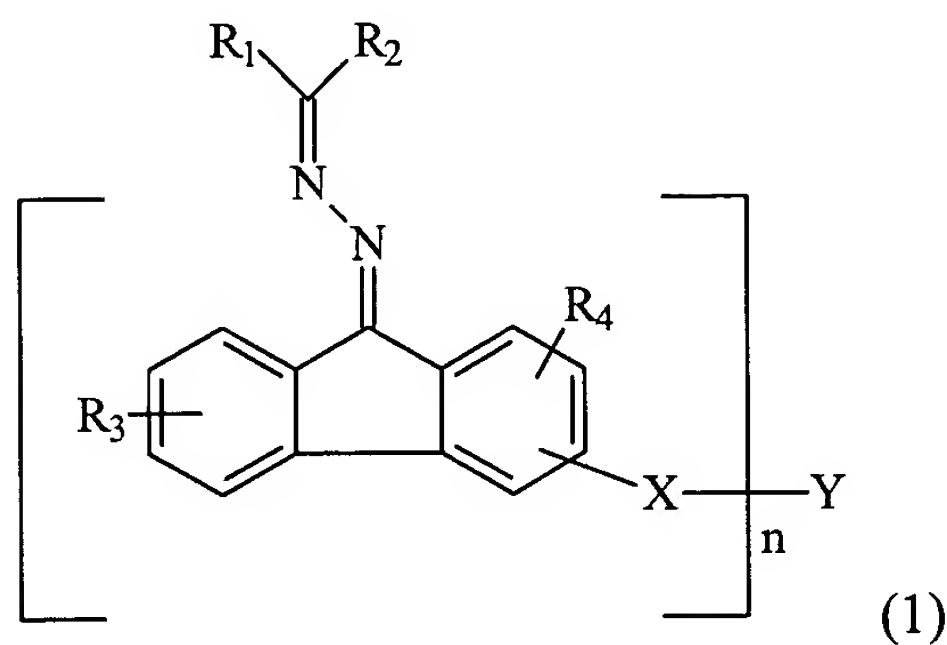
In some embodiments, the organophotoreceptor material comprises, for example:
(a) a charge transport layer comprising the charge transport material and a polymeric
20 binder; (b) a charge generating layer comprising the charge generating compound and a polymeric binder; and (c) the electrically conductive substrate. The charge transport layer may be intermediate between the charge generating layer and the electrically conductive substrate. Alternatively, the charge generating layer may be intermediate between the charge transport layer and the electrically conductive substrate. In further
25 embodiments, the organophotoreceptor material has a single layer with both a charge transport material and a charge generating compound within a polymeric binder.

The organophotoreceptors can be incorporated into an electrophotographic imaging apparatus, such as laser printers. In these devices, an image is formed from physical embodiments and converted to a light image that is scanned onto the
30 organophotoreceptor to form a surface latent image. The surface latent image can be used to attract toner onto the surface of the organophotoreceptor, in which the toner

image is the same or the negative of the light image projected onto the organophotoreceptor. The toner can be a liquid toner or a dry toner. The toner is subsequently transferred, from the surface of the organophotoreceptor, to a receiving surface, such as a sheet of paper. After the transfer of the toner, the entire surface is
 5 discharged, and the material is ready to cycle again. The imaging apparatus can further comprise, for example, a plurality of support rollers for transporting a paper receiving medium and/or for movement of the photoreceptor, a light imaging component with suitable optics to form the light image, a light source, such as a laser, a toner source and delivery system and an appropriate control system.

10 An electrophotographic imaging process generally can comprise (a) applying an electrical charge to a surface of the above-described organophotoreceptor; (b) imagewise exposing the surface of the organophotoreceptor to radiation to dissipate charge in selected areas and thereby form a pattern of charged and uncharged areas on the surface; (c) exposing the surface with a toner, such as a liquid toner that includes a dispersion of
 15 colorant particles in an organic liquid to create a toner image, to attract toner to the charged or discharged regions of the organophotoreceptor; and (d) transferring the toner image to a substrate.

As described herein, an organophotoreceptor comprises a charge transport material having the formula



where n is an integer between 2 and 6, inclusive;

R₁ and R₂ are, independently, H, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, a heterocyclic group, or an aryl group;

R₃ and R₄ are, independently, H, halogen, carboxyl, hydroxyl, thiol, cyano, nitro, aldehyde group, ketone group, an ether group, an ester group, a carbonyl group, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, or an aryl group;

5 X is a linking group having the formula -(CH₂)_m-, branched or linear, where m is an integer between 0 and 20, inclusive, and one or more of the methylene groups can be optionally replaced by O, S, C=O, O=S=O, a heterocyclic group, an aromatic group, urethane, urea, an ester group, a NR₅ group, a CHR₆ group, or a CR₇R₈ group where R₅, R₆, R₇, and R₈ are, independently, H, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, a heterocyclic group, or an aryl group; and

10 Y comprises a bond, C, N, O, S, a branched or linear -(CH₂)_p- group where p is an integer between 0 and 10, an aromatic group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a NR₉ group where R₉ is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or aryl group, wherein Y has a structure selected to form n bonds with the corresponding X groups.

Substitution is liberally allowed on the chemical groups to affect various physical
15 effects on the properties of the compounds, such as mobility, sensitivity, solubility, stability, and the like, as is known generally in the art. In the description of chemical substituents, there are certain practices common to the art that are reflected in the use of language. The term group indicates that the generically recited chemical entity (e.g., alkyl group, phenyl group, aromatic group, etc.) may have any substituent thereon which
20 is consistent with the bond structure of that group. For example, where the term 'alkyl group' is used, that term would not only include unsubstituted linear, branched and cyclic alkyls, such as methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, cyclohexyl, dodecyl and the like, but also substituents such as hydroxyethyl, cyanobutyl, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, and the like. However, as is consistent with such nomenclature, no substitution would be included
25 within the term that would alter the fundamental bond structure of the underlying group. For example, where a phenyl group is recited, substitution such as 1-hydroxyphenyl, 2,4-fluorophenyl, orthocyanophenyl, 1,3,5-trimethoxyphenyl and the like would be acceptable within the terminology, while substitution of 1,1,2,2,3,3-hexamethylphenyl would not be acceptable as that substitution would require the ring bond structure of the
30 phenyl group to be altered to a non-aromatic form because of the substitution. Aromatic group is a group comprises a 4n+2 pi electron system where n is any integer. When

referring to an aromatic group, the substituent cited will include any substitution that does not substantively alter the chemical nature of the $4n+2$ pi electron system in the aromatic group. Where the term moiety is used, such as alkyl moiety or phenyl moiety, that terminology indicates that the chemical material is not substituted. Where the term alkyl moiety is used, that term represents only an unsubstituted alkyl hydrocarbon group, whether branched, straight chain, or cyclic.

Organophotoreceptors

The organophotoreceptor may be, for example, in the form of a plate, a sheet, a flexible belt, a disk, a rigid drum, or a sheet around a rigid or compliant drum, with flexible belts and rigid drums generally being used in commercial embodiments. The organophotoreceptor may comprise, for example, an electrically conductive substrate and on the electrically conductive substrate a photoconductive element in the form of one or more layers. The photoconductive element can comprise both a charge transport material and a charge generating compound in a polymeric binder, which may or may not be in the same layer, as well as a second charge transport material such as a charge transport compound or an electron transport compound in some embodiments. For example, the charge transport material and the charge generating compound can be in a single layer. In other embodiments, however, the photoconductive element comprises a bilayer construction featuring a charge generating layer and a separate charge transport layer. The charge generating layer may be located intermediate between the electrically conductive substrate and the charge transport layer. Alternatively, the photoconductive element may have a structure in which the charge transport layer is intermediate between the electrically conductive substrate and the charge generating layer.

The electrically conductive substrate may be flexible, for example in the form of a flexible web or a belt, or inflexible, for example in the form of a drum. A drum can have a hollow cylindrical structure that provides for attachment of the drum to a drive that rotates the drum during the imaging process. Typically, a flexible electrically conductive substrate comprises an electrically insulating substrate and a thin layer of electrically conductive material onto which the photoconductive material is applied.

The electrically insulating substrate may be paper or a film forming polymer such as polyester (e.g., polyethylene terephthalate or polyethylene naphthalate), polyimide, polysulfone, polypropylene, nylon, polyester, polycarbonate, polyvinyl resin, polyvinyl fluoride, polystyrene and the like. Specific examples of polymers for supporting
5 substrates included, for example, polyethersulfone (StabarTM S-100, available from ICI), polyvinyl fluoride (Tedlar[®], available from E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company), polybisphenol-A polycarbonate (MakrofolTM, available from Mobay Chemical Company) and amorphous polyethylene terephthalate (MelinarTM, available from ICI Americas, Inc.). The electrically conductive materials may be graphite, dispersed carbon black,
10 iodide, conductive polymers such as polypyrroles and Calgon[®] conductive polymer 261 (commercially available from Calgon Corporation, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa.), metals such as aluminum, titanium, chromium, brass, gold, copper, palladium, nickel, or stainless steel, or metal oxide such as tin oxide or indium oxide. In embodiments of particular interest, the electrically conductive material is aluminum. Generally, the photoconductor
15 substrate has a thickness adequate to provide the required mechanical stability. For example, flexible web substrates generally have a thickness from about 0.01 to about 1 mm, while drum substrates generally have a thickness of from about 0.5 mm to about 2 mm.

The charge generating compound is a material that is capable of absorbing light to
20 generate charge carriers, such as a dye or pigment. Non-limiting examples of suitable charge generating compounds include, for example, metal-free phthalocyanines (e.g., ELA 8034 metal-free phthalocyanine available from H.W. Sands, Inc. or Sanyo Color Works, Ltd., CGM-X01), metal phthalocyanines such as titanium phthalocyanine, copper phthalocyanine, oxytitanium phthalocyanine (also referred to as titanyl
25 oxyphthalocyanine, and including any crystalline phase or mixtures of crystalline phases that can act as a charge generating compound), hydroxygallium phthalocyanine, squarylium dyes and pigments, hydroxy-substituted squarylium pigments, perylimides, polynuclear quinones available from Allied Chemical Corporation under the tradename Indofast[®] Double Scarlet, Indofast[®] Violet Lake B, Indofast[®] Brilliant Scarlet and
30 Indofast[®] Orange, quinacridones available from DuPont under the tradename MonastralTM Red, MonastralTM Violet and MonastralTM Red Y, naphthalene 1,4,5,8-

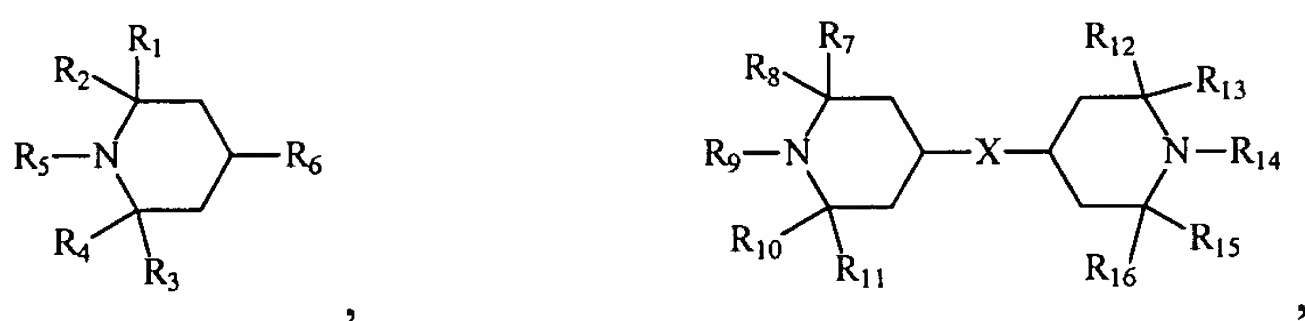
tetracarboxylic acid derived pigments including the perinones, tetrabenzoporphyrins and tetranaphthaloporphyrins, indigo- and thioindigo dyes, benzothioxanthene-derivatives, perylene 3,4,9,10-tetracarboxylic acid derived pigments, polyazo-pigments including bisazo-, trisazo- and tetrakisazo-pigments, polymethine dyes, dyes containing quinazoline groups, tertiary amines, amorphous selenium, selenium alloys such as selenium-tellurium, selenium-tellurium-arsenic and selenium-arsenic, cadmium sulphoselenide, cadmium selenide, cadmium sulphide, and mixtures thereof. For some embodiments, the charge generating compound comprises oxytitanium phthalocyanine (e.g., any phase thereof), hydroxygallium phthalocyanine or a combination thereof.

The photoconductive layer of this invention may optionally contain a second charge transport material which may be a charge transport compound, an electron transport compound, or a combination of both. Generally, any charge transport compound or electron transport compound known in the art can be used as the second charge transport material.

An electron transport compound and a UV light stabilizer can have a synergistic relationship for providing desired electron flow within the photoconductor. The presence of the UV light stabilizers alters the electron transport properties of the electron transport compounds to improve the electron transporting properties of the composite. UV light stabilizers can be ultraviolet light absorbers or ultraviolet light inhibitors that trap free radicals.

UV light absorbers can absorb ultraviolet radiation and dissipate it as heat. UV light inhibitors are thought to trap free radicals generated by the ultraviolet light and after trapping of the free radicals, subsequently to regenerate active stabilizer moieties with energy dissipation. In view of the synergistic relationship of the UV stabilizers with electron transport compounds, the particular advantages of the UV stabilizers may not be their UV stabilizing abilities, although the UV stabilizing ability may be further advantageous in reducing degradation of the organophotoreceptor over time. The improved synergistic performance of organophotoreceptors with layers comprising both an electron transport compound and a UV stabilizer are described further in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/425,333 filed on April 28, 2003 to Zhu, entitled "Organophotoreceptor With A Light Stabilizer," incorporated herein by reference.

Non-limiting examples of suitable light stabilizer include, for example, hindered trialkylamines such as Tinuvin 144 and Tinuvin 292 (from Ciba Specialty Chemicals, Terrytown, NY), hindered alkoxydialkylamines such as Tinuvin 123 (from Ciba Specialty Chemicals), benzotriazoles such as Tinuvan 328, Tinuvin 900 and Tinuvin 928 (from Ciba Specialty Chemicals), benzophenones such as Sanduvor 3041 (from Clariant Corp., Charlotte, N.C.), nickel compounds such as Arbestab (from Robinson Brothers Ltd, West Midlands, Great Britain), salicylates, cyanocinnamates, benzylidene malonates, benzoates, oxanilides such as Sanduvor VSU (from Clariant Corp., Charlotte, N.C.), triazines such as Cyagard UV-1164 (from Cytec Industries Inc., N.J.), polymeric sterically hindered amines such as Luchem (from Atochem North America, Buffalo, NY). In some embodiments, the light stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of hindered trialkylamines having the following formula:



where R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄, R₁₅ are, independently, hydrogen, alkyl group, or ester, or ether group; and R₅, R₉, and R₁₄ are, independently, alkyl group; and X is a linking group selected from the group consisting of -O-CO-(CH₂)_m-CO-O- where m is between 2 to 20.

The binder generally is capable of dispersing or dissolving the charge transport material (in the case of the charge transport layer or a single layer construction), the charge generating compound (in the case of the charge generating layer or a single layer construction) and/or an electron transport compound for appropriate embodiments. Examples of suitable binders for both the charge generating layer and charge transport layer generally include, for example, polystyrene-co-butadiene, polystyrene-co-acrylonitrile, modified acrylic polymers, polyvinyl acetate, styrene-alkyd resins, soya-alkyl resins, polyvinylchloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyacrylonitrile, polycarbonates, polyacrylic acid, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, styrene polymers, polyvinyl butyral, alkyd resins, polyamides, polyurethanes, polyesters, polysulfones, polyethers, polyketones, phenoxy resins, epoxy resins, silicone resins, polysiloxanes, poly(hydroxyether) resins, polyhydroxystyrene resins, novolak, poly(phenylglycidyl

ether)-co-dicyclopentadiene, copolymers of monomers used in the above-mentioned polymers, and combinations thereof. Suitable binders include, for example, polyvinyl butyral, such as BX-1 and BX-5 from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan.

Suitable optional additives for any one or more of the layers include, for example,
5 antioxidants, coupling agents, dispersing agents, curing agents, surfactants and combinations thereof.

The photoconductive element overall typically has a thickness from about 10 to about 45 microns. In the dual layer embodiments having a separate charge generating layer and a separate charge transport layer, the charge generation layer generally has a
10 thickness from about 0.5 to about 2 microns, and the charge transport layer has a thickness from about 5 to about 35 microns. In embodiments in which the charge transport material and the charge generating compound are in the same layer, the layer with the charge generating compound and the charge transport composition generally has a thickness from about 7 to about 30 microns. In embodiments with a distinct electron
15 transport layer, the electron transport layer has an average thickness from about 0.5 microns to about 10 microns and in further embodiments from about 1 micron to about 3 microns. In general, an electron transport overcoat layer can increase mechanical abrasion resistance, increases resistance to carrier liquid and atmospheric moisture, and decreases degradation of the photoreceptor by corona gases. A person of ordinary skill in
20 the art will recognize that additional ranges of thickness within the explicit ranges above are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

Generally, for the organophotoreceptors described herein, the charge generation compound is in an amount from about 0.5 to about 25 weight percent in further embodiments in an amount from about 1 to about 15 weight percent and in other
25 embodiments in an amount from about 2 to about 10 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer. The charge transport material is in an amount from about 10 to about 80 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer, in further embodiments in an amount from about 35 to about 60 weight percent, and in other embodiments from about 45 to about 55 weight percent, based on the weight of the
30 photoconductive layer. The optional second charge transport material, when present, can be in an amount of at least about 2 weight percent, in other embodiments from about 2.5

to about 25 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer, and in further embodiments in an amount from about 4 to about 20 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer. The binder is in an amount from about 15 to about 80 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer, and in further
5 embodiments in an amount from about 20 to about 75 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that additional ranges within the explicit ranges of compositions are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

For the dual layer embodiments with a separate charge generating layer and a
10 charge transport layer, the charge generation layer generally comprises a binder in an amount from about 10 to about 90 weight percent, in further embodiments from about 15 to about 80 weight percent and in some embodiments in an amount of from about 20 to about 75 weight percent, based on the weight of the charge generation layer. The optional charge transport material in the charge generating layer, if present, generally can
15 be in an amount of at least about 2.5 weight percent, in further embodiments from about 4 to about 30 weight percent and in other embodiments in an amount from about 10 to about 25 weight percent, based on the weight of the charge generating layer. The charge transport layer generally comprises a binder in an amount from about 20 weight percent to about 70 weight percent and in further embodiments in an amount from about 30
20 weight percent to about 50 weight percent. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that additional ranges of binder concentrations for the dual layer embodiments within the explicit ranges above are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

For the embodiments with a single layer having a charge generating compound and a charge transport material, the photoconductive layer generally comprises a binder, a
25 charge transport material, and a charge generation compound. The charge generation compound can be in an amount from about 0.05 to about 25 weight percent and in further embodiment in an amount from about 2 to about 15 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer. The charge transport material can be in an amount from about 10 to about 80 weight percent, in other embodiments from about 25 to about 65
30 weight percent, in additional embodiments from about 30 to about 60 weight percent and in further embodiments in an amount from about 35 to about 55 weight percent, based on

the weight of the photoconductive layer, with the remainder of the photoconductive layer comprising the binder, and optionally additives, such as any conventional additives. A single layer with a charge transport composition and a charge generating compound generally comprises a binder in an amount from about 10 weight percent to about 75 weight percent, in other embodiments from about 20 weight percent to about 60 weight percent, and in further embodiments from about 25 weight percent to about 50 weight percent. Optionally, the layer with the charge generating compound and the charge transport material may comprise a second charge transport material. The optional second charge transport material, if present, generally can be in an amount of at least about 2.5 weight percent, in further embodiments from about 4 to about 30 weight percent and in other embodiments in an amount from about 10 to about 25 weight percent, based on the weight of the photoconductive layer. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that additional composition ranges within the explicit compositions ranges for the layers above are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

In general, any layer with an electron transport layer can advantageously further include a UV light stabilizer. In particular, the electron transport layer generally can comprise an electron transport compound, a binder, and an optional UV light stabilizer. An overcoat layer comprising an electron transport compound is described further in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/396,536 to Zhu et al. entitled, "Organophotoreceptor With An Electron Transport Layer," incorporated herein by reference. For example, an electron transport compound as described above may be used in the release layer of the photoconductors described herein. The electron transport compound in an electron transport layer can be in an amount from about 10 to about 50 weight percent, and in other embodiments in an amount from about 20 to about 40 weight percent, based on the weight of the electron transport layer. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that additional ranges of compositions within the explicit ranges are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

The UV light stabilizer, if present, in any one or more appropriate layers of the photoconductor generally is in an amount from about 0.5 to about 25 weight percent and in some embodiments in an amount from about 1 to about 10 weight percent, based on the weight of the particular layer. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that

additional ranges of compositions within the explicit ranges are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

For example, the photoconductive layer may be formed by dispersing or dissolving the components, such as one or more of a charge generating compound, the charge transport material of this invention, a second charge transport material such as a charge transport compound or an electron transport compound, a UV light stabilizer, and a polymeric binder in organic solvent, coating the dispersion and/or solution on the respective underlying layer and drying the coating. In particular, the components can be dispersed by high shear homogenization, ball-milling, attritor milling, high energy bead (sand) milling or other size reduction processes or mixing means known in the art for effecting particle size reduction in forming a dispersion.

The photoreceptor may optionally have one or more additional layers as well. An additional layer can be, for example, a sub-layer or an overcoat layer, such as a barrier layer, a release layer, a protective layer, or an adhesive layer. A release layer or a protective layer may form the uppermost layer of the photoconductor element. A barrier layer may be sandwiched between the release layer and the photoconductive element or used to overcoat the photoconductive element. The barrier layer provides protection from abrasion to the underlayers. An adhesive layer locates and improves the adhesion between a photoconductive element, a barrier layer and a release layer, or any combination thereof. A sub-layer is a charge blocking layer and locates between the electrically conductive substrate and the photoconductive element. The sub-layer may also improve the adhesion between the electrically conductive substrate and the photoconductive element.

Suitable barrier layers include, for example, coatings such as crosslinkable siloxanol-colloidal silica coating and hydroxylated silsesquioxane-colloidal silica coating, and organic binders such as polyvinyl alcohol, methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer, casein, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyacrylic acid, gelatin, starch, polyurethanes, polyimides, polyesters, polyamides, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polycarbonates, polyvinyl butyral, polyvinyl acetoacetal, polyvinyl formal, polyacrylonitrile, polymethyl methacrylate, polyacrylates, polyvinyl carbazoles, copolymers of monomers used in the above-mentioned polymers, vinyl chloride/vinyl

acetate/vinyl alcohol terpolymers, vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate/maleic acid terpolymers, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, vinyl chloride/vinylidene chloride copolymers, cellulose polymers, and mixtures thereof. The above barrier layer polymers optionally may contain small inorganic particles such as fumed silica, silica, titania, alumina, zirconia, or a combination thereof. Barrier layers are described further in U.S. Patent 6,001,522 to Woo et al., entitled "Barrier Layer For Photoconductor Elements Comprising An Organic Polymer And Silica," incorporated herein by reference. The release layer topcoat may comprise any release layer composition known in the art. In some embodiments, the release layer is a fluorinated polymer, siloxane polymer, fluorosilicone polymer, silane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacrylate, or a combination thereof. The release layers can comprise crosslinked polymers.

The release layer may comprise, for example, any release layer composition known in the art. In some embodiments, the release layer comprises a fluorinated polymer, siloxane polymer, fluorosilicone polymer, polysilane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacrylate, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid), urethane resins, urethane-epoxy resins, acrylated-urethane resins, urethane-acrylic resins, or a combination thereof. In further embodiments, the release layers comprise crosslinked polymers.

The protective layer can protect the organophotoreceptor from chemical and mechanical degradation. The protective layer may comprise any protective layer composition known in the art. In some embodiments, the protective layer is a fluorinated polymer, siloxane polymer, fluorosilicone polymer, polysilane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacrylate, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid), urethane resins, urethane-epoxy resins, acrylated-urethane resins, urethane-acrylic resins, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments of particular interest, the release layers are crosslinked polymers.

An overcoat layer may comprise an electron transport compound as described further in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/396,536, filed on March 25, 2003 to Zhu et al. entitled, "Organoreceptor With An Electron Transport Layer," incorporated herein by reference. For example, an electron transport compound, as described above, may be used in the release layer of this invention. The electron

transport compound in the overcoat layer can be in an amount from about 2 to about 50 weight percent, and in other embodiments in an amount from about 10 to about 40 weight percent, based on the weight of the release layer. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that additional ranges of composition within the explicit ranges are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

Generally, adhesive layers comprise a film forming polymer, such as polyester, polyvinylbutyral, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyurethane, polymethyl methacrylate, poly(hydroxy amino ether) and the like. Barrier and adhesive layers are described further in U.S. Patent 6,180,305 to Ackley et al., entitled "Organic Photoreceptors for Liquid Electrophotography," incorporated herein by reference.

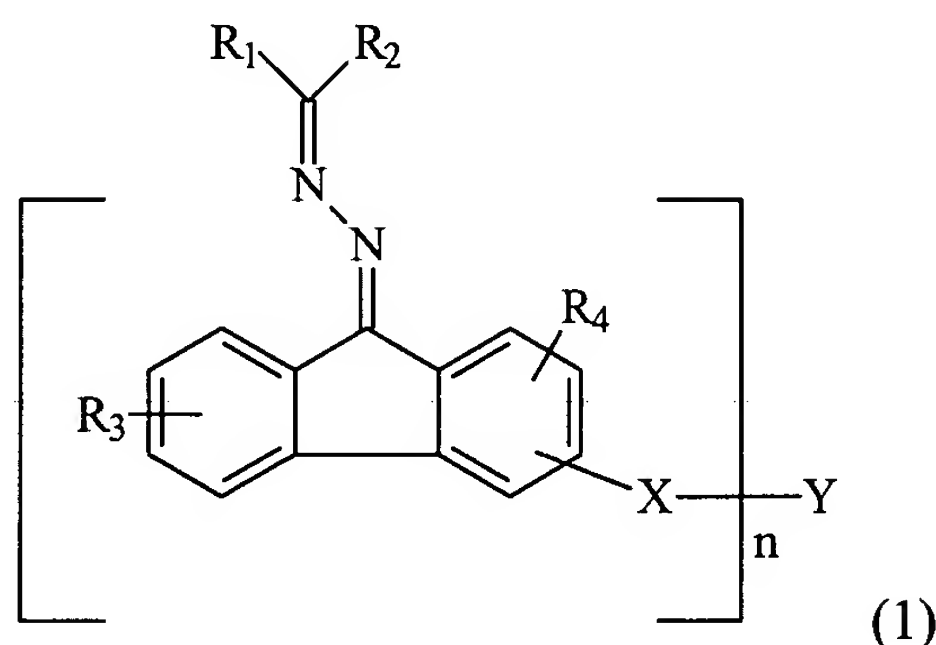
Sub-layers can comprise, for example, polyvinylbutyral, organosilanes, hydrolyzable silanes, epoxy resins, polyesters, polyamides, polyurethanes, silicones, and the like. In some embodiments, the sub-layer has a dry thickness between about 20 Angstroms and about 2,000 Angstroms. Sublayers containing metal oxide conductive particles can be between about 1 and about 25 microns thick. A person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that additional ranges of compositions and thickness within the explicit ranges are contemplated and are within the present disclosure.

The charge transport materials as described herein, and photoreceptors including these compounds, are suitable for use in an imaging process with either dry or liquid toner development. For example, any dry toners and liquid toners known in the art may be used in the process and the apparatus of this invention. Liquid toner development can be desirable because it offers the advantages of providing higher resolution images and requiring lower energy for image fixing compared to dry toners. Examples of suitable liquid toners are known in the art. Liquid toners generally comprise toner particles dispersed in a carrier liquid. The toner particles can comprise a colorant/pigment, a resin binder, and/or a charge director. In some embodiments of liquid toner, a resin to pigment ratio can be from 1:1 to 10:1, and in other embodiments, from 4:1 to 8:1. Liquid toners are described further in Published U.S. Patent Applications 2002/0128349, entitled "Liquid Inks Comprising A Stable Organosol," 2002/0086916, entitled "Liquid Inks Comprising Treated Colorant Particles," and 2002/0197552, entitled "Phase Change

Developer For Liquid Electrophotography," all three of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Charge Transport Material

5 As described herein, an organophotoreceptor comprises a charge transport material having the formula



where n is an integer between 2 and 6, inclusive;

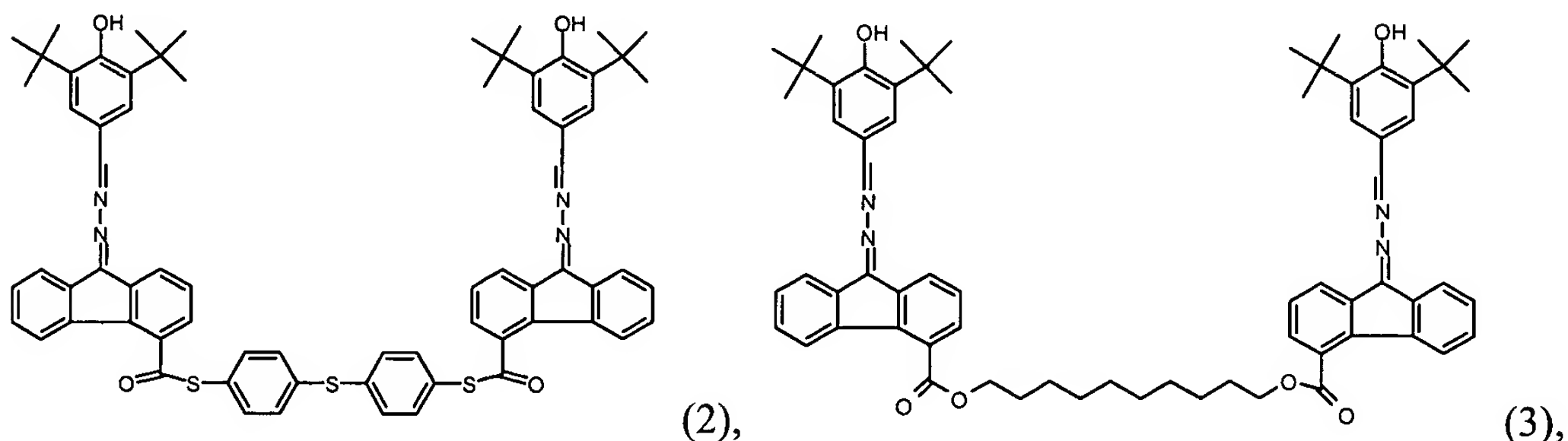
10 R_1 and R_2 are, independently, H, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, a heterocyclic group, or an aryl group;

R_3 and R_4 are, independently, H, halogen, carboxyl, hydroxyl, thiol, cyano, nitro, aldehyde group, ketone group, an ether group, an ester group, a carbonyl group, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, or an aryl group;

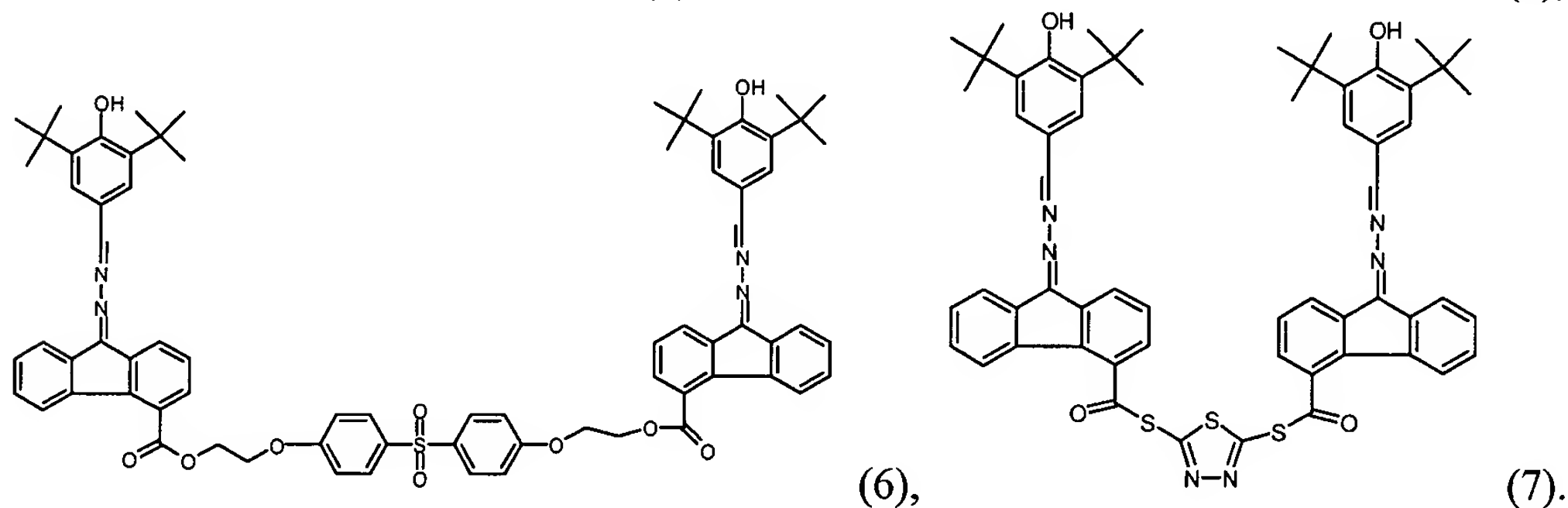
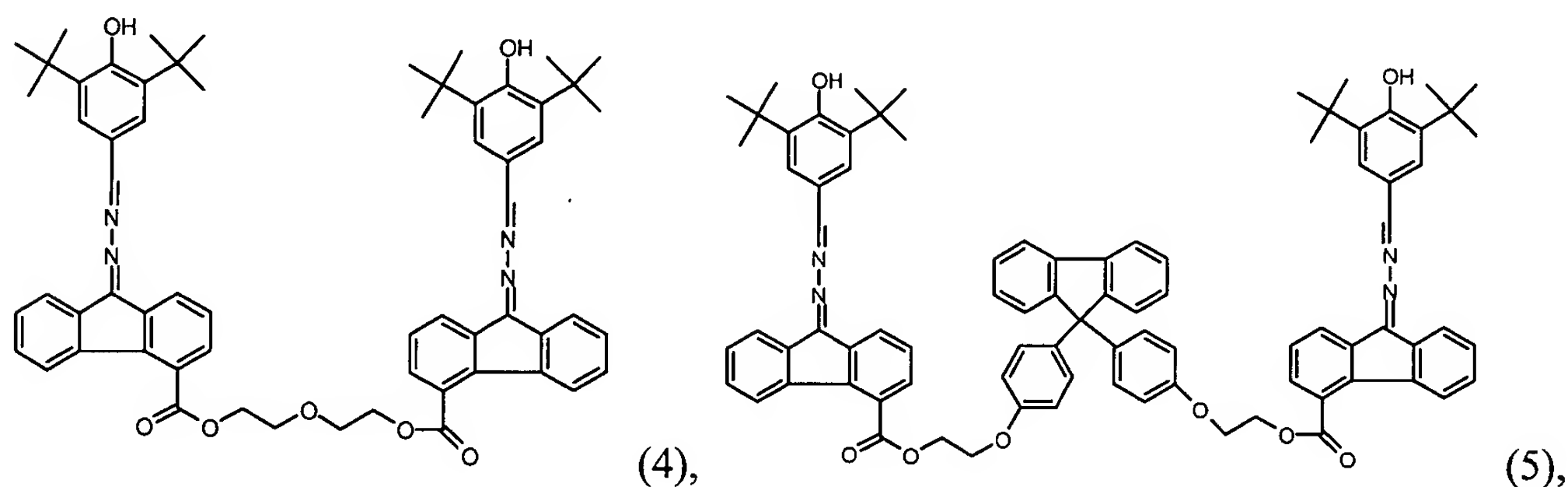
15 X is a linking group having the formula $-(CH_2)_m-$, branched or linear, where m is an integer between 0 and 20, inclusive, and one or more of the methylene groups can be optionally replaced by O, S, C=O, O=S=O, a heterocyclic group, an aromatic group, urethane, urea, an ester group, a NR_5 group, a CHR_6 group, or a CR_7R_8 group where R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are, independently, H, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, a heterocyclic group, or an aryl group; and

20 Y is a bond, C, N, O, S, a branched or linear $-(CH_2)_p-$ group where p is an integer between 0 and 10 and where one or more of the hydrogen atoms in the $-(CH_2)_p-$ may be optionally removed to provide bond positions to enable n to have a higher value than 2, an aromatic group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a NR_9 group where R_9 is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or aryl group.

Specific, non-limiting examples of suitable charge transport materials within the general Formula (1) of the present invention have the following structures:



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Synthesis Of Charge Transport Materials

The synthesis of the charge transport materials of this invention can be prepared by a 3-step synthesis procedure. The first step is the reaction of 9-fluorenone-4-carbonyl chloride or its derivative with a dihydroxyl compound, a dithiol compound, or a diamino compound in a solvent, optionally with a catalytic amount of a trialkylamine, to form a dimeric fluorenone derivative. The second step is the preparation of a hydrazone

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derivative by the reaction of hydrazine with an aldehyde or a ketone. The last step is the reaction of the dimeric fluorenone derivative with the hydrazone derivative in 1:2 mole ratio under acidic condition to form a dimeric fluorenone azine derivative.

The invention will now be described further by way of the following examples.

5

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - Synthesis And Characterization Charge Transport Materials

This example described the synthesis and characterization of Compounds 2-7 in which the numbers refer to formula numbers above. The characterization involves both
10 chemical characterization and the electronic characterization of materials formed with the compound.

Preparation of (4-n-Butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile

A 70 g (0.312 mole) quantity of fluorenone-4-carboxylic acid (commercially
15 available from Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI), 480 g (6.5 mole) of n-butanol (commercially obtained from Fisher Scientific Company Inc., Hanover Park, IL), 1000 ml of toluene and 4 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid were added to a 2-liter round bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a reflux condenser with a Dean Stark apparatus. The solution was refluxed for 5 hours with aggressive agitation and refluxing, during which
20 time about 6 g of water were collected in the Dean Stark apparatus. The flask was cooled to room temperature. The solvents were evaporated, and the residue was added to 4-liter of 3% sodium bicarbonate aqueous solution with agitation. The solid was filtered off, washed with water until the pH of the water was neutral, and dried in the hood overnight. The product was n-butyl fluorenone-4-carboxylate ester (70 g, 80% yield). A ¹H-NMR
25 spectrum of n-butyl fluorenone-4-carboxylate ester was obtained in CDCl₃ with a 300 MHz NMR from Bruker Instrument. The peaks (ppm) were found at $\delta = 0.87 - 1.09$ (t, 3H); $\delta = 1.42 - 1.70$ (m, 2H); $\delta = 1.75 - 1.88$ (q, 2H); $\delta = 4.26 - 4.64$ (t, 2H); $\delta = 7.29 - 7.45$ (m, 2H); $\delta = 7.46 - 7.58$ (m, 1H); $\delta = 7.60 - 7.68$ (dd, 1H); $\delta = 7.75 - 7.82$ (dd, 1H); $\delta = 7.90 - 8.00$ (dd, 1H); $\delta = 8.25 - 8.35$ (dd, 1H).

30 A 70 g (0.25 mole) quantity of n-butyl fluorenone-4-carboxylate ester, 750 ml of absolute methanol, 37 g (0.55 mole) of malononitrile (commercially obtained from

Sigma-Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI), 20 drops of piperidine (commercially obtained from Sigma-Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI) were added to a 2-liter, 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a reflux condenser. The solution was refluxed for 8 hours, and the flask was cooled to room temperature. An orange crude product was
5 filtered, washed twice with 70 ml of methanol and once with 150 ml of water, and dried in the hood for overnight. This orange crude product was recrystallized from a mixture of 600 ml of acetone and 300 ml of methanol using activated charcoal. The flask was placed at 0 °C for 16 hours. The crystals were filtered and dried in a vacuum oven at 50 °C for 6 hours to obtain 60 g of pure (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)
10 malononitrile. The melting point of the product was 99-100 °C. A ¹H-NMR spectrum of (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene) malononitrile was obtained in CDCl₃ with a 300 MHz NMR from Bruker Instrument. The peaks (in ppm) were found at δ = 0.74 – 1.16 (t, 3H); δ = 1.38 – 1.72 (m, 2H); δ = 1.70 -1.90 (q, 2H); δ = 4.29 - 4.55 (t, 2H); δ = 7.31 – 7.43 (m, 2H); δ = 7.45 - 7.58 (m, 1H); δ = 7.81 – 7.91 (dd, 1H); δ = 8.15 – 8.25 (dd, 1H);
15 δ = 8.42 – 8.52 (dd, 1H); δ = 8.56 -8.66 (dd, 1H).

Preparation of 3,5-Di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde Hydrazone

3,5-Di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde hemihydrate (48.70 g, 0.2 mole, commercially available from Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI), 300 ml of ethyl alcohol, and
20 anhydrous hydrazine (12.8 g, 0.4 mole, commercially available from Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI) were added to a 500 ml 3 neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The solution was refluxed for 4½ hours. The solvent was concentrated with a rotary evaporator to about 50 ml and the solid was collected and dried at 50 °C oven vacuum for 6 hours. The yield was 45.6 g (92 %).

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Preparation of Compound (2)

A 10.0 g quantity of 9-fluorenone-4-carbonyl chloride (0.04 mole, obtained from Aldrich Chemicals Co, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA) and 100 ml of tetrahydrofuran (obtained from Aldrich) were added to a 250 ml, 3-neck round bottom flask equipped
30 with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The solution was stirred for about ½ hour, and then 5.16 g of 4,4'-thiobisbenzenethiol (0.02 mole, obtained from Aldrich) in

50 ml of tetrahydrofuran were added, followed by the addition of 4.17 g of triethylamine (0.04 mole, obtained from Aldrich). The solution was refluxed for 6 hours, filtered hot to remove triethylamine hydrochloride salt byproduct and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness to obtain a first dimeric fluorenone derivative. The first dimeric fluorenone derivative was recrystallized from tetrahydrofuran / methanol with activated charcoal. The first dimeric fluorenone derivative was dried at 60 °C vacuum oven for 6 hours to yield a yellow solid (6.85 g, 50 % yield).

The first dimeric fluorenone derivative (10.00 g, 0.0151 mole) and 200 ml tetrahydrofuran (THF) were added to a 500 ml 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The flask was heated with a heating mantle until all solid entered into solution. A solution of 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde hydrazone (3.75 g, 0.0151 mole) in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran was added to the flask, followed by the addition of 20 drops of 37% aqueous hydrochloric acid. The flask was refluxed for 5 hours. Activated charcoal was added, and the solution was boiled for about 5 minutes. The solution was filtered hot into a beaker that contained 500 ml of ethyl alcohol. The product was isolated and recrystallized from THF/ethyl alcohol with activated charcoal. Compound (2) was isolated and dried at 50 °C in a vacuum oven for 6 hours. The yield of product was 5.76 g (53%). A ¹H-NMR spectrum in CDCl₃ yielded chemical shifts (ppm) (using 300 MHz H-NMR Bruker instrument) of: Aliphatic protons: δ = 1.33 – 1.71 (s, 19H); δ = 5.65 – 5.69 (s, 1H). Aromatic protons appeared in the region δ = 7.24 -8.63.

Preparation of Compound (3)

A 4.85 g quantity of 9-fluorenone-4-carbonyl chloride (0.02 mole, obtained from Aldrich Chemicals Co, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA) and 100 ml of tetrahydrofuran (obtained from Aldrich) were added to a 250 ml, 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The solution was stirred for about ½ hour, and then 1.74 g of 1,10-decanediol (0.01 mole, obtained from Aldrich) in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran were added, followed by the addition of 2 g of triethylamine (0.02 mole, obtained from Aldrich). The solution was refluxed for 6 hours, filtered hot to remove triethylamine hydrochloride salt byproduct and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. A

liquid product was obtained, which solidified upon standing at room temperature for couple of hours. The crude product was recrystallized from ethyl acetate with activated charcoal. The product was dried at 60 °C in a vacuum oven for 6 hours to yield a second dimeric fluorenone derivative, which was a yellow solid (2.5 g, 43% yield). The product
5 had a melting point of 101-102 °C. A ¹H-NMR (300 MHz) spectrum in CDCl₃ yielded chemical shifts (ppm) of: 1.15 – 1.61 (m, 12H); 1.71 – 1.92 (q, 4H); 4.34 – 4.47 (t, 4H); 7.32 – 7.37 (m, 4H); 7.50 (td, 2H); 7.70 (d, 2H); 7.82 (dd, 2H); 7.93 (dd, 2H); 8.28 (d, 2H).

Compound (3) can be obtained similarly with the process for obtaining
10 Compound (2) except that the first dimeric fluorenone derivative is replaced by the second dimeric fluorenone derivative.

Preparation of Compound (4)

A 10.0 g quantity of 9-fluorenone-4-carbonyl chloride (0.04 mole, obtained from
15 Aldrich Chemicals Co, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA) and 100 ml of tetrahydrofuran (obtained from Aldrich) were added to a 250 ml, 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The solution was stirred for about ½ hour, and then 2.186 g of diethylene glycol (0.02 mole, obtained from Aldrich) in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran were added, followed by the addition of 4.17 g of triethylamine (0.04
20 mole, obtained from Aldrich). The solution was refluxed for 6 hours, filtered hot to remove triethylamine hydrochloride salt byproduct, and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness to obtain the crude product. The crude product was recrystallized from ethyl acetate with activated charcoal. The product was dried at 60 °C in a vacuum oven for 6 hours to yield a third dimeric fluorenone derivative, which was a yellow solid (5.0 g, 47%
25 yield). The product had a melting point of 137 °C. A ¹H-NMR (300 MHz) spectrum in CDCl₃ yielded chemical shifts (ppm) of: 3.88 – 4.00 (t, 4H); 4.56 – 4.65 (t, 4H); 7.15 – 7.34 (m, 4H); 7.40 – 7.49 (td, 2H); 7.61 – 7.68 (d, 2H); 7.71 – 7.77 (dd, 2H); 7.85 – 7.92 (dd, 2H); 8.20 – 8.27 (d, 2H).

Compound (4) can be obtained similarly with the process for obtaining
30 Compound (2) except that the first dimeric fluorenone derivative is replaced by the third dimeric fluorenone derivative.

Preparation of Compound (5)

A 10.0 g quantity of 9-fluorenone-4-carbonyl chloride (0.04 mole, obtained from Aldrich Chemicals Co, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA) and 100 ml of tetrahydrofuran (obtained from Aldrich) were added to a 250 ml, 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The solution was stirred for about ½ hour, and then 9.04 g of 4,4'-(9-fluorenylidene)-bis(2-phenoxyethanol) (0.02 mole, obtained from Aldrich) in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran were added, followed by the addition of 4.17 g of triethylamine (0.04 mole, obtained from Aldrich). The solution was refluxed for 6 hours, filtered hot to remove triethylamine hydrochloride salt byproduct, and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness to obtain the crude product. The crude product was recrystallized from tetrahydrofuran with activated charcoal. The product was dried at 60 °C in a vacuum oven for 6 hours to yield a fourth dimeric fluorenone derivative, which was a yellow solid (9.0 g, 51% yield). The product had a melting point of 137-138 °C. A ¹H-NMR (300 MHz) spectrum in CDCl₃ yielded chemical shifts (ppm) of: 4.25 – 4.34 (t, 4H); 4.67 – 4.77 (t, 4H); 6.71 – 6.86 (m, 4H); 7.06 – 7.17 (m, 4H); 7.19 – 7.48 (m, 12H); 7.65 – 7.72 (td, 2H); 7.72 – 7.79 (d, 2H); 7.78 – 7.84 (dd, 2H); 7.86 – 7.95 (dd, 2H); 8.22 – 8.33 (d, 2H).

Compound (5) can be obtained similarly with the process for forming Compound (2) except that the first dimeric fluorenone derivative is replaced by the fourth dimeric fluorenone derivative.

Preparation of Compound (6)

A 10.0 g quantity of 9-fluorenone-4-carbonyl chloride (0.04 mole, obtained from Aldrich Chemicals Co, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA) and 100 ml of tetrahydrofuran (obtained from Aldrich) were added to a 250 ml, 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a mechanical stirrer. The solution was stirred for about ½ hour, then 6.97 g of bis[4-(2-hydroxyethoxy) phenyl]sulfone (0.02 mole, obtained from Aldrich) in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran were added, followed by the addition of 4.17 g of triethylamine (0.04 mole, obtained from Aldrich). The solution was refluxed for 6 hours, filtered hot to remove triethylamine hydrochloride salt byproduct, and the filtrate was

evaporated to dryness to obtain the crude product. The crude product was recrystallized from tetrahydrofuran with activated charcoal. The product was dried at 60 °C in a vacuum oven for 6 hours to yield a fifth dimeric fluorenone derivative, which was a yellow solid (9.3 g, 60% yield). A ¹H-NMR (300 MHz) spectrum in CDCl₃ yielded
5 chemical shifts (ppm) of: 4.35 – 4.43 (t, 4H); 4.72 – 4.81 (t, 4H); 6.95 – 7.05 (m, 4H); 7.27 – 7.38 (m, 4H); 7.40 – 7.52 (dd, 2H); 7.66 – 7.74 (dd, 2H); 7.79 – 7.94 (m, 8H); 8.25 – 8.33 (d, 2H).

Compound (6) can be obtained similarly with the process for forming Compound (2) except that the first dimeric fluorenone derivative is replaced by the fifth
10 dimeric fluorenone derivative.

Preparation of Compound (7)

A sixth dimeric fluorenone derivative can be prepared similarly to the preparation of the diketone used for the synthesis of Compound (2) except for using 2, 5-dimecapto-
15 1,3,4-thiadiazole (Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI) instead of 4,4'-thiobisbenzenethiol.

Compound (7) can be obtained similarly with the process for forming Compound (2) except that the first dimeric fluorenone derivative is replaced by the sixth dimeric fluorenone derivative.

Example 2 - Preparation of Organophotoreceptors

Comparative Sample A

Comparative Sample A was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.4 g of 20 weight % (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile in tetrahydrofuran, 6.66 g of 25 weight %
25 MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl
30 oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio of 2.3:1 was then added to the above

5 mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 175 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $12 \mu \pm 0.5 \mu$.

10

Comparative Sample B

Comparative Sample B was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.4 g of 20 weight % (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile in tetrahydrofuran, 6.66 g of 25 weight % MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio of 2.3:1 was then added to the above mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 231 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $15 \mu \pm 0.5 \mu$.

Comparative Sample C

Comparative Sample C was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.4 g of 20 weight % (4-n-butoxycarbonyl-9-fluorenylidene)malononitrile in tetrahydrofuran, 6.66 g of 25 weight % MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio of 2.3:1 was then added to the above mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 362 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $22 \mu \pm 0.5 \mu$.

Sample 1

Sample 1 was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.4 g of 20 weight % Compound (2) in 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 6.66 g of 25 weight % MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio

of 2.3:1 was then added to the above mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially
5 obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 175 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $12 \mu \pm 0.5\mu$.

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Sample 2

Sample 2 was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.4 g of 20 weight % Compound (2) in
15 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 6.66 g of 25 weight % MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin
20 (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio of 2.3:1 was then added to the above mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially
25 obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 269 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $17 \mu \pm 0.5\mu$.

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Sample 3

Sample 3 was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.4 g of 20 weight % Compound (2) in 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 6.66 g of 25 weight % MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio of 2.3:1 was then added to the above mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 306 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $19\ \mu \pm 0.5\mu$.

Sample 4

Sample 4 was a single layer organophotoreceptor coated on a 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum substrate. The coating solution for the single layer organophotoreceptor was prepared by pre-mixing 2.16 g of 20 weight % Compound (2) in 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 0.24 g of 20 weight % ET400 (a hydroquinone derivative commercially available from Takasago Chemical Corp., Tokyo, Japan), 3.33 g of 25 weight % MPCT-10 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 3.33 g of 25 weight % MPCT-38 (a charge transfer material, commercially obtained from Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Tokyo, Japan) in tetrahydrofuran, 7.65 g of 12 weight % polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-1, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) in tetrahydrofuran. A 0.74 g quantity of

a CGM mill-base containing 19 weight % of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine and a polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5, commercially obtained from Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) at a weight ratio of 2.3:1 was then added to the above mixture. The CGM mill-base was obtained by milling 112.7 g of titanyl oxyphthalocyanine (commercially obtained from H.W. Sands Corp., Jupiter, FL) with 49 g of the polyvinyl butyral resin (BX-5) in 651 g of methylethylketone on a horizontal sand mill (model LMC12 DCMS, commercially obtained from Netzsch Incorporated, Exton, PA) with 1-micron zirconium beads using recycle mode for 4 hours. After mixing on a mechanical shaker for about 1 hour, the single layer coating solution was ring coated onto the 30 mm diameter anodized aluminum drum at a rate of about 194 mm/min. The coated drum was dried in an oven at 110 °C for 5-10 minutes. The dry photoconductive film thickness was $13 \mu \pm 0.5\mu$.

Example 3 - Electrostatic Testing And Properties Of Organophotoreceptors

This example provides results of electrostatic testing on the organophotoreceptor samples formed as described in Example 1.

Electrostatic cycling performance of organophotoreceptors described herein with fluorenone azine compounds can be determined using in-house designed and developed test bed. Electrostatic evaluation on the 30 mm drum test bed is designed to accelerate electrostatic fatigue during extended cycling by increasing the charge-discharge cycling frequency and decreasing the recovery time as compared to drum test beds with longer process speeds. The location of each station in the tester (distance and elapsed time per cycle) is given as follows.

Electrostatic test stations around the 30 mm drum at 12.7 cm /s.

Station	Degrees	Total Distance, cm	Total Time, sec
Erase Bar Center	0°	Initial, 0 cm	Initial, 0 s
Corotron Charger	87.3°	2.29	0.18
Laser Strike	147.7°	3.87	0.305
Probe #1	173.2°	4.53	0.36

Probe #2	245.9°	6.44	0.51
Erase Bar Center	360°	9.425	0.74

The erase bar is an array of laser emitting diodes (LED) with a wavelength of 720 nm. that discharges the surface of the organophotoreceptor. The corotron charger comprises a
5 wire that permits the transfer of a charge to the surface of the organophotoreceptor at fast processing speeds.

From the table, the first electrostatic probe (Trek™ 344 electrostatic meter) is located 0.055 s after the laser strike station and 0.18 s after the corotron charger. In addition, the second probe (Trek 344 electrostatic meter) is located 0.15 s from the first
10 probe and 0.33 s from the corotron charger. All measurements were performed at 20 °C and 30% relative humidity.

Electrostatic measurements were obtained as a compilation of several tests. The first three diagnostic tests (prodtest initial, VlogE initial, dark decay initial) are designed to evaluate the electrostatic cycling of a new, fresh sample and the last three, identical
15 diagnostic test (prodtest final, VlogE final, dark decay final) are run after cycling of the sample (longrun). The laser is operated at 780nm, 600dpi, 50 um spot size, 60 nanoseconds / pixel expose time, 1,800 lines per second scan speed, and a 100% duty cycle. The duty cycle is the percent exposure of the pixel clock period, i.e., the laser is on for the full 60 nanoseconds per pixel at a 100% duty cycle.

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Electrostatic Test Suite:

1) PRODTEST: Charge acceptance (V_{acc}) and discharge voltage (V_{dis}) were established by subjecting the samples to corona charging (erase bar always on) for three complete drum revolutions (laser off); discharged with the laser @ 780nm & 600dpi on
25 the forth revolution (50 um spot size, expose 60 nanoseconds / pixel, run at a scan speed of 1,800 lines per second, and use a 100% duty cycle); completely charged for the next three revolutions (laser off); discharged with only the erase lamp @ 720nm on the eighth revolution (corona and laser off) to obtain residual voltage (V_{res}); and, finally, completely charged for the last three revolutions (laser off). The contrast voltage (V_{con}) is the

difference between V_{acc} and V_{dis} and the functional dark decay (V_{dd}) is the difference in charge acceptance potential measured by probes #1 and #2.

2) VLOGE: This test measures the photoinduced discharge of the photoconductor to various laser intensity levels by monitoring the discharge voltage of the sample as a function of the laser power (exposure duration of 50 ns) with fixed exposure times and constant initial potentials. This test measures the photoinduced discharge of the photoconductor to various laser intensity levels by monitoring the discharge voltage of the sample as a function of the laser power (exposure duration of 50 ns) with fixed exposure times and constant initial potentials. The functional photosensitivity, S_{780nm} , and operational power settings can be determined from this diagnostic test.

3) DARK DECAY: This test measures the loss of charge acceptance in the dark with time without laser or erase illumination for 90 seconds and can be used as an indicator of i) the injection of residual holes from the charge generation layer to the charge transport layer, ii) the thermal liberation of trapped charges, and iii) the injection of charge from the surface or aluminum ground plane.

4) LONGRUN: The sample was electrostatically cycled for 4000 drum revolutions according to the following sequence per each sample-drum revolution. The sample was charged by the corona, the laser was cycled on and off (80-100° sections) to discharge a portion of the sample and, finally, the erase lamp discharged the whole sample in preparation for the next cycle. The laser was cycled so that the first section of the sample was never exposed, the second section was always exposed, the third section was never exposed, and the final section was always exposed. This pattern was repeated for a total of 4000 drum revolutions, and the data was recorded periodically, after every 200th cycle.

5) After the LONGRUN test, the PRODTEST, VLOGE, DARK DECAY diagnostic tests were run again.

The following Table lists the results from the prodtest initial and prodtest final diagnostic tests. The values for the charge acceptance voltage (V_{acc} , probe #1 average voltage obtained from the third cycle), discharge voltage (V_{dis} , probe #1 average voltage obtained from the fourth cycle) are reported for the initial and final cycles.

Table 1. Dry Electrostatic Test Results after 4000 cycles.

Sample	Prodtest Initial					Prodtest Final			
	V _{acc}	V _{dis}	V _{con}	S _{780nm}	V _{res}	V _{acc}	V _{dis}	V _{con}	V _{res}
Sample 1	768	131	637	199	58	604	123	481	63
Sample 2	867	140	727	199	61	762	137	625	66
Sample 3	1094	65	1029	251	27	681	46	635	24
Sample 4	902	96	806	199	37	733	90	643	39
Comparative Sample A	905	61	844	210	21	618	58	560	22
Comparative Sample B	967	54	913	236	21	652	55	597	30
Comparative Sample C	1266	62	1204	290	25	864	63	801	34

5 Note: The data were obtained on a fresh sample at the beginning of cycling and then after 4000 cycles. In the above table, the radiation sensitivity (Sensitivity at 780nm in m²/J) of the xerographic process was determined from the information obtained during the VLOGE diagnostic run by calculating the reciprocal of the product of the laser power required to discharge the photoreceptor to ½ of its initial potential, the exposure duration,
10 and 1/spot size.

 As understood by those skilled in the art, additional substitution, variation among substituents, and alternative methods of synthesis and use may be practiced within the scope and intent of the present disclosure of the invention. The embodiments above are intended to be illustrative and not limiting. Additional embodiments are within the claims.
15 Although the present invention has been described with reference to particular embodiments, workers skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.